



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-R

127 AUG 2001

WHITE LETTER NO. 07-01

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT VIOLATIONS

1. The Antideficiency Act (ADA) is a series of federal statutes which make it illegal for government officials to spend money which is not specifically authorized by law. The ADA applies to any Marine commander or official who spends federal money. If violated, the ADA requires a formal investigation process with the results reported to Congress. Violations can lead to adverse personnel actions and even criminal proceedings.

2. The ADA is of increasing concern to me because of a marked rise in the number of recent ADA cases within the Marine Corps. This situation requires the attention of all our Marines, military and civilian, who obligate and expend public funds.

3. To violate the ADA is to break the law. This law cannot be ignored, waived, interpreted, or reengineered away. "I did it for the good of the Corps" is not an acceptable justification for breaking this law. The key to avoiding ADA violations is to ensure that your Comptroller/fiscal officer is closely involved with the financial oversight of all programs that obligate or expend your funds.

4. The ADA section most likely to be violated by Marine Corps commands is 31 USC Section 1517. This section states that a government official may not make or authorize expenditures or obligations in excess of funds that he/she is allotted. The ADA also requires holders of Section 1517 responsibility to have a system of internal controls adequate to preclude a violation. Good internal controls and your personal involvement in emphasizing this area are key to eliminating Marine Corps violations of the ADA.

5. If you need procedural assistance in handling a possible violation, with ensuring that appropriate internal controls are in place, or if additional information on ADA responsibilities is required, contact my staff (Code RFR) at DSN 224-2595/4500


J. L. JONES